

Case Study Title: Parent Peer Support Group Education Practitioner Network	
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1. Introduction	
During the 2025–2026 academic session, the Family Learning Team chaired a multi-agency working group to explore how best to support education practitioners who are establishing and facilitating Parent Peer Support Groups within their school and early years communities. This work directly aligns with Glasgow City Council Education’s Grand Challenges of: • Engagement, Participation and Inclusion • Wellbeing and Learning • Developing as a Networked Learning Organisation It also supports Glasgow Life Libraries and Communities priorities, particularly: • Building fairer, more inclusive communities • Reducing poverty, disadvantage and inequality	
2. Background	
The Principal Teacher at St Albert’s Primary School delivered an inspiring presentation on their Parent Peer Support Group at a Family Learning Team FLAG (Family Learning Action Group) meeting. Resulting discussion with FLAG participants highlighted a clear gap: • Teachers were either running Parent Peer Support Groups without training or support, or • Identifying a need within their community but unsure how to start Kirsteen Creevy, Principal Teacher (Inclusion) at St Albert’s Primary, suggested collaborative work to address this gap. Many teachers were working in isolation, striving to support their families using an adult-led approach while lacking peer support themselves, and structured facilitation training.	
3. Objectives	
At its first meeting, the working group agreed the following aims: To initiate and strengthen partnerships across education, health, Glasgow Life and the third sector in order to: • Scope existing Parent Peer Support Groups within education services • Gather and share inspiring practice and high-quality resources • Support practitioners to adopt a quality parent-led approach • Develop a sustainable Peer Support Network for practitioners	

4. Implementation and approach

The Family Learning Team met with Kirsteen Creevy to identify and invite a wide range of partners already engaged in this area of work. The first working group meeting took place in September 2025.

Working Group Members included:

- Kirsteen Creevy – Principal Teacher (Inclusion), St Albert's Primary
- Emma Laing – Principal Teacher, St Rose of Lima Primary
- Maggie Banks – Senior Educational Psychologist
- Carole Edgerton – Senior Educational Psychologist
- Siobhan Canny- Education Support Officer (Inclusion)
- Julie Martin – Family Support Practitioner, Glasgow Virtual School
- Ayisha Azam – Senior Health Improvement Officer
- Rachel Shannon – Senior Learning and Development Officer, HSCP
- Denise Millen – Libraries and Communities Officer (Family Learning)
- Noreen Campbell – Libraries and Communities Officer (Family Learning)
- Laura Kennedy – Libraries and Communities Coordinator (Family Learning)

The working group met **four times between September 2025 and March 2026**, working collaboratively towards the agreed objectives.

A sub-group (Kirsteen Creevy, Emma Laing, Noreen Campbell, Denise Millen and Laura Kennedy) also met separately on two occasions to design a city-wide **CPD Workshop Afternoon** for education staff.

This CPD event was delivered on **25 February 2026**, titled:

"Do you support a Parent Support Group within your community, or would you like to? This event will assist you to plan, facilitate and evaluate Parent Peer Support Groups."

5. Challenges

Early discussions confirmed a key challenge:

- The breadth of existing resources and services across the city made it difficult for practitioners to identify **what was most relevant**, especially given varying levels of experience.
- This was only a small part of education staff's remit; they had limited time to plan, monitor and evaluate Parent Support Groups, and learn from each other.

To respond to this, the CPD event was designed to offer **practical, accessible and layered support**, including:

- Insight into the benefits and impact of a Parent Peer Support Group at St Albert's Primary
- Learning about initial family engagement approaches from St Rose of Lima Primary
- Three focused workshops providing tools, skills and next-step support:
 - Educational Psychology Service: *Overview of the Nurturing Families Pack*

- Family Learning Team: *A Community Learning and Development Approach – how we can support you*
- *Creating a Shared Agreement*
- Structured opportunities to network and join a newly established **Professional Practitioner Network**.

6. Results and impact: Data and Participant Statements

26 education staff and partners attended the CPD afternoon.

50% of participants were not currently delivering a Parent Support Group

- **All** reported increased confidence
- **All** stated they were **“very likely”** to develop a new group as a result of attending

“I plan to work with my Head Teacher to plan next steps in developing an ASN Parent Support Group. This session was excellent and exactly what we were looking for.” Principal Teacher, St Charles Primary School.

50% of participants were already supporting Parent Peer Groups

- **All participants identified clear actions** to further develop inclusive, parent-led practice

“I feel more confident in supporting our group. I am going to suggest a shared agreement and ensure I attend the new practitioner network.” Principal Teacher, Cadder Primary School.

7. Impact Assessment

- Family Learning Officers are now directly supporting the establishment of **three new Parent Peer Support Groups** at:
 - Croftcroighn ASN School
 - St Charles Primary School
 - Croftfoot Primary School
- Increased collaboration with **Educational Psychology**, with more schools and nurseries using the **Nurturing Families Resource**
- Inspiring practice has been shared via the **Family Learning Team Blog**, which receives approximately **400 views per month**:
<https://blogs.glowscotland.org.uk/gc/glasgowfamilylearningteam/asn-parent-support-groups/>
- Ayisha Azam, Health Improvement Senior, Glasgow HSCP, shared the **Whole Family Wellbeing Approach** developed by Health Improvement for schools. The approach is currently being piloted across three learning communities in Glasgow. Learning from the pilot phase will be shared with the network, with the possibility of aligning the **Whole Family Wellbeing Approach** with future capacity building, training, and resource development, including integration within CPD for education staff.
- The working group has led to **new partnerships in other areas**, for example HSCP colleagues working with the Family Learning Team to promote new online safety family resources

- The network is now embedded within the **Education Equalities Improvement Plan**, (Disability Strand), to improve consistency in the development of **inclusive** Parent Peer Support Groups city-wide

8. Legacy and Next Steps

The working group and CPD event clearly identified a strong demand from education staff for:

- Ongoing collegiate support
- Improved awareness of partners and available resources
- Opportunities to share practice and problem-solve collectively

In response, the Family Learning Team and key partners have established the **Parent Support Group Practitioner Network**.

- **First meeting:** 13 May 2026, 3.30–5.00pm
- **Venue:** St Rose of Lima Primary School
- **42 education staff and partners** have already been invited

This first session will gather practitioner views on:

- Frequency of meetings
- Preferred formats
- Priority themes for future sessions

We look forward to working together to improve outcomes for Glasgow's families.

Any Other Information



Introducing the CPD Afternoon.



Sharing the Family Engagement Journey at St Rose of Lima Primary at the CPD Event.



Sharing St Albert Primary's Journey of Inclusive Family Support

Further Information: Laura Kennedy

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